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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MCT-01 INR-07 CIAE-00 /020 W
-----051546 043450 /46

R 042022Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9444

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 1746

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED RSO TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO SY AND ARA A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN BUENOS AIRES THAT COME TO OUR ATTENTION. THE FOLLOWING REPORTS COVER THE WEEKS FROM FEB. 10 THRU MAR. 3. DEPT. SHOULD REALIZE THAT THESE ARE FRAGMENTED REPORTS AND CANNOT IN ALL CASES BE FURTHER CONFIRMED. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT ALL OF THE TERRORIST OR COUNTER-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN BUENOS AIRES.

2. FEB. 10: FOUR PERSONS IDENTIFIED AS TERRORISTS STOLE DOCUMENTS FROM THE CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE. FOUR TERRORISTS ROBBED DRUGSTORE AND ESCAPED IN A STOLEN VEHICLE. A MILITARY PATROL CHECKING PASSENGERS ON A BUSLINE WAS SHOT BY AN UNKNOWN PERSON WHO WAS LATER IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER OF THE MONTONEROS.

FEB. 11: THERE WERE 3 BOMB ATTACKS AGAINST AUTOMOBILE AGENCIES AND 5 OTHER REPORTED BOMB INCIDENTS. PEDRO ALBERT LOMBARDERO, EXECUTIVE OF A METALLURGICAL ENTERPRISE, WAS ASSASSINATED WHEN HIS VEHICLE WAS INTERCEPTED BY OTHER VEHICLES.

FEB. 12: FEDERAL POLICE OPERATION CENTER INFORMED ALL PERSONNEL THAT DUE TO INFORMATION RECEIVED CONCERNING A PLANNED SERIES OF

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TERRORIST ATTACKS AND BOMB THREATS, ALL POLICE ELEMENTS MUST

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

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U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): DECONTROL

Classify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade

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MAINTAIN PARTICULAR VIGILANCE. SIX EXPLOSIONS WERE REGISTERED NEAR THE LIGHT AND POWER HOTEL. OSCAR SMITH, FORMER SECRETARY LIGHT AND POWER UNION, WAS KIDNAPPED SHORTLY AFTER HE DEPARTED HIS RESIDENCE.

FEB. 15; POLICE AND MILITARY ELEMENTS WERE ENGAGED IN A 4-HOUR FIREFIGHT WITH TERRORISTS IN THE BELGRANO SECTION OF BUENOS AIRES. ONE POLICEMEN WAS KILLED, 6 SERIOUSLY INJURED; 2 TERRORISTS KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED. IN COMPLETING THIS ACTION, POLICE DISCOVERED A TERRORIST FIRST AID STATION AND NUMEROUS MILITARY AND POLICE UNIFORMS, AS WELL AS WEAPONS.

FEB. 16; TERRORIST ELEMENTS FIRED AT FEDERAL POLICE PATROL CAR. THERE WERE NO VICTIMS AND THE ATTACKERS ESCAPED.

FEB. 17: TWO GROUPS OF PERSONS, REPORTEDLY TERRORISTS, ROBBED A TOTAL OF 9 VEHICLES FROM TWO GARGAGES IN BUENOS AIRES. TWO TERRORISTS AND ONE POLICE OFFICER WERE KILLED IN A GUNBATTLE IN EZPELETA, APPROXIMATELY 20 KMS SOUTH OF BUENOS AIRES. BOMB WAS THROWN FROM A VEHICLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF CORDOBA AND GRAN CANARIA. TWO WORKERS OF THE ROCA RR STATION WERE INJURED.

FEB. 18: AT APPROXIMATELY 0130 HRS. 9 TERRORISTS, ONE OF WHOM WAS A WOMAN, WERE SHOT AND KILLED BY POLICE IN AN AREA BETWEEN PINTO AND LUJANO STS. IN BUENOS AIRES. NEWSPAPER REPORTS REFLECT THAT THIS SHOOT OUT WAS APPROXIMATELY 1 1/2 HRS DURATION. AT APPROXIMATELY 0835 HRS, A REMOTE CONTROL BOMB WAS DETONATED IN AEROPARQUE AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE WAS DEPARTING FOR BAHIA BLANCA. POLICE SPECULATE THAT THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS TO HAVE EXPLODED AS PRES. VICELA'S PLANE TAXIED PAST IT ON THE RUNWAY. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE PLANE'S LIGHT LOAD, IT DID NOT UTILIZE THE FULL RUNWAY AND WAS AIRBORNE PRIOR TO PASSING OVER THE AREA IN WHICH THE BOMB WAS PLANTED. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY WERE NOT INJURED. POLICE ALSO DEACTIVATED A SECOND EXPLOSIVE DEVICE A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE [REDACTED]
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FIRST. TWO ARMED PERSONS ENTERED A LOCAL GARAGE AND ROBBED TWO VEHICLES. DURING THE EVENING, INCENDIARY DEVICES WERE PLACED INSIDE BUSES AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES. POLICE ALERTED ALL PATROL CARS TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO BUS TERMINALS. A BOMB EXPLODED AT MEXICO AND VIRREY CABELLOS CAUSING MATERIAL DAMAGE BUT NO PERSONAL INJURIES. THIS IS THE RESIDENCE OF AN

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AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OFFICER.

FEB. 20: FOUR ARMED MEN IN A FORD FALCON VEHICLE PLACED A BOMB WHICH EXPLODED SHORTLY AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE AT CUCHA CUCHA 300. POLICE SET UP TRAFFIC CONTROL ROAD BLOCKS BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN APPREHENDING ANYONE.

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FEB. 22: THREE TERRORISTS ENGAGED IN A SHOOT OUT WITH FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS AT LAFUENTE AND F.RIVERA. THEY ESCAPED TOWARDS THE VILLA SOLDATI RR STATION WHERE ONE OF THE TERRORISTS WAS APPREHENDED. POLICE USING HELICOPTERS AND RADIO MOTOR PATROL RE-ENGAGED THE TWO REMAINING TERRORISTS AT ANOTHER LOCATION. ONE OF THE TERRORISTS WAS CAPTURED; THE OTHER APPARENTLY ESCAPED. TWO PERSONS DRIVING A FIAT 125 OPEN FIRE WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AT POLICE PERSONNEL AT LOCATION OF ACEVEDO AND CABRERA. THE TWO MEN ESCAPED AND NO POLICEMEN WERE INJURED. AT APPROXIMATELY 5:30 P.M. THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION IN A JAPANESE CARGO SHIP ANCHORED AT DOCK F-5, IN MILITARY ZONE. EXTENT OF DAMAGE IS UNKNOWN.

FEB. 24: LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT ANA MARIA GONZALEZ, TEENAGE TERRORIST WHO MURDERED FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF CESAREO CARDOZO, WAS KILLED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH SECURITY FORCES IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY. ARGENTINE ARMY PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN A SHOOT OUT WITH TWO TERRORISTS AT PARRAL AND YERBAL STS. THE TERRORISTS A MAN AND A WOMAN, ESCAPED THE SCENE. THE MAN APPARENTLY WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEG.

FEB. 25: A MEMBER OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY WAS KIDNAPPED, ROBBED AND HELD HOSTAGE FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND WAS RELEASED UNHURT. THE KIDNAPPERS CLAIMED TO BE MONTONEROS BUT POLICE SPECULATED

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THAT THEY WERE CRIMINALS. A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL EXPLODED AT A CAR AGENCY AT BARTOLOME MITRE 3200, CAUSING MINOR FIRE DAMAGE. SEVERAL TERRORISTS ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE MUNICIPAL POLICE CLINIC

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LOCATED AT ACOYTE AND AVELLANEDA, CARRYING A SUSPICIOUS PARCEL. WHEN THE POLICE ATTEMPTED TO INVESTIGATE, THE TERRORISTS OPENED FIRE AGAINST THEM. TERRORISTS WERE SUPPORTED IN THEIR ESCAPE BY SEVERAL OTHER PERSONS WHO THREW HAND GRENADES TO COVER THEIR ESCAPE.

FEB. 26: TWO ARMED MEN ATTACKED A POLICEMAN AND CONFISCATED HIS WEAPON AND STOLE A VEHICLE AT IRIGOYEN AND CAMINO DE CINTURA IN SAN JUSTO, WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES.

FEB. 28: POLICE CONFISCATED WEAPONS AND PRINTING MATERIAL LOCATED AT MAYO AND FRAGATA SARMIE. DURING THIS OPERATION A TERRORIST WAS KILLED.

MAR. 1: EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DETONATED AT ROSALES 3019, OLIVOS, NEAR AN ISRAELI SCHOOL. THERE WAS MATERIAL DAMAGE. THERE WAS A SHOOT OUT BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES AT BOULOGNE SUR MER AND LAVALLE STS. IN WHICH TWO POLICE OFFICERS WERE INJURED AND ONE TERRORIST WAS KILLED.

MAR. 2: A PARCEL APPEARING TO BE A BOMB WAS DISCOVERED AT THE TELEPHONE COMPANY OFFICES AT CORRIENTES AND MAIPU. HOWEVER, AFTER EXAMINATION IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE PACKAGE WAS A DECOY.

3. IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH FEDERAL POLICE AUTHORITIES, THEY HAVE STATED THAT THE TERRORIST SITUATION WOULD BE SOLVED OVER THE LONG HAUL AND THAT THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE MONTONEROS AND PARTICULARLY OF THE ERP HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED. HOWEVER, THE TERRORISTS STILL HAVE THE POWER TO STRIKE WITH FORCE SPORADICALLY AT SELECTED TARGETS AND POLICE HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE INCREASE IN BOMBING ATTACKS. THE PRIME OBJECTIVE REMAINS TO UNDERMINE AND EMBARRASS THE ARGENTINE GOVT. SOURCES WARN THAT IN THIS CONNECTION A KIDNAPPING OR ATTACK ON A DIPLOMAT WOULD CREATE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE GOA, PARTICULARLY IF THE PERSON CONCERNED WAS A U.S. DIPLOMAT. CONSEQUENTLY, SOURCES ADVISED THAT MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY REMAIN ALERT AND APPREHENSIVE

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TO THE TERRORIST THREAT.
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